

gets its living in much the same way as the American Crow. The similarity is further evident in a marked preference for scarabæid and carabid beetles. A most remarkable difference in food habits is the almost total absence of orthoptera from the diet of the Rook. Neither grasshoppers nor crickets are mentioned in this paper nor in the two reports mentioned below, while these insects compose a large proportion of the food of the American Crow and are a great favorite with most ground feeding birds of the United States.

The author concludes that "so far as the evidence of this inquiry shows, the rook is not a particularly beneficial bird to the agriculturist, although its usefulness might be considerably increased were it fewer in numbers." This opinion agrees with that of John Gilmour¹ on the Rooks of Fifeshire, which was based on an examination of 355 gizzards. In view of the same conclusion being reached in two extensive investigations, one local, the other general, there is little doubt that it accurately sets forth the economic status of the Rook in Great Britain.

A more favorable opinion of the Rook is held in Germany, Hollrun² stating that the harm done by the birds in April, May and June is considerably outweighed by useful services. The proportion of animal matter in the 131 stomachs collected in these months was 66 percent., almost 2½ times the percentage found in English Rooks during the same period.—W. L. M.

Finn's 'The Waterfowl of India and Asia.'—This is a revised edition,³ under a new name, of "How to Know the Indian Ducks," amplified by the inclusion of all the Asiatic species of the family. Forty-two species, including stragglers, are recorded from India alone, and the heads of half of this number are illustrated by good figures.

The biographies are full and interesting and much attention is given to the differences between the closely related species and also to the characters of the higher groups. As a further aid in identification two synoptical tables are added. The lack of an alphabetical index will be a source of inconvenience to the users of this otherwise handy little work.—W. De W. M.

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¹ Trans. Highland and Agr. Soc. of Scotland, 5th ser., Vol. VIII, pp. 21–113, 1896.

² 7ter Jahresbericht Versuchstation f. Pflanzenschutz zu Halle, pp. 5–26, 1895.

³ The Water Fowl of India and Asia by Frank Finn, B. A. (Oxon), F. Z. S., M. B. O. U., Late Deputy Superintendent of the Indian Museum, Author of "Garden and Aviary Birds of India," . . . 4 lines of titles of author's previous works | — | Calcutta: Thacker, Spink & Co. | — | 1909 — 12mo, pp. ix + 121, and 11 half-tone plates of heads. Price, Rs. 2–8.

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